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BRAZIL

I. Status and Strength of the Communist Party of Brazil

The Communist Party of Brazil (PCB), until recently the largest Communist organization in the Western Hemisphere, was shaken to its foundations by dissension in the wake of the 20th CPSU Congress and the Hungarian revolt in 1956. Within the PCB, reaction to these events resulted in considerable defections at all Party levels and the establishment in May 1957 of a significant dissident Communist movement.

Since August 1957 the PCB has begun to regroup its forces and has made a concerted bid to regain legal status. Although the PCB has been outlawed since 1947, only sporadic efforts have been made to suppress it. The Communist press circulates freely in all major cities and Communists have heavily infiltrated organized labor. The Communists' most effective appeal has been directed toward the strong sense of nationalism prevalent in all social sectors and toward the aspirations of the lower middle class and urban labor. Although the PCB cannot register candidates for public office on its own ticket, it is usually active in both local and national politics. PCB estimated membership is 30,000 - 40,000.

II. Party Units Responsible for Sabotage, Assassination, Kidnapping or Terrorist Missions

Flying squads and armed pickets consisting of Communist and non-Communist labor elements led by Communist leaders of the Inter-trade Union Alliance for Wage Increases and against the High Cost of Living, were active in the Sao Paulo strikes of October 1957.

III. Sabotage Training Given within Brazil

Training in "covert" sabotage was given informally in Communist base organizations (cells) of large factories in 1957. (For definition of "covert" sabotage, see para. V, below.)

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Detailed PCB instruction books pertaining to sabotage, the manufacture of explosives, and the development of demonstrations into acts of more offensive nature were confiscated by Brazilian authorities in early 1956.

IV. Sabotage Training Given Brazilian Communists in Communist Bloc Countries

In view of the very detailed PCB instruction bulletins pertaining to the theory and practice of violent action--sabotage, terrorism and guerrilla warfare--it seems quite probable that selected PCB leaders have been trained in Communist Bloc countries. Because of the emphasis on violence and warfare in rural areas, it seems possible that such training was received in China, but there is no solid evidence to support this.

One Brazilian Communist attended a series of lectures on guerrilla warfare at a training school in the Soviet Union in 1957.

V. Sabotage, Assassination, Kidnapping, Terrorist Missions and Targets

a. U.S. and/or U.S. Allies Personnel, Installations

At the time of disruptive student demonstrations in Rio de Janeiro in December 1950, effigies of President Truman and Uncle Sam were burned.

The PCB is to blame the U.S. in its press for all sabotage incidents which the PCB undertakes, according to a report of February 1957.

b. Other Sabotage Targets

Brazilian railroads were PCB sabotage objectives in 1950 and 1951.

Police were attacked by Communist-led demonstrators who exploited a Christmas bonus issue in December 1950.

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Industrial sabotage was committed in 1951 and in 1957. In 1957 Party members in factories were taught that "covert" sabotage was to be carried out at any time. This included the damaging of factory machinery, slowdown techniques and circumvention of orders of supervisors.

Serious damage to dock areas where there were oil pipelines was caused by arson in January 1957. The body of a young Communist believed to have accomplished this act was found later in the area. In his pockets were matches and gas-soaked rags. It is not known whether this was done at PCB orders or at the initiative of the young Communist. Police believed that two other incidents involving oil were related to this one; namely, the partial destruction of the tanker Amapa in the Rio de Janeiro harbor on 17 January 1957 and the explosion and sinking on 13 January 1957 in the State of Maranhao of the ship Ipanema, which was carrying kerosene and aviation gasoline.

Many non-Communist workers were injured and extensive damage to property was inflicted during strikes in Sao Paulo in October 1957. Also at this time a small group of Communists attacked a cartridge and munitions factory and a nearby arms factory. Police thwarted these PCB attempts to seize weapons.

VI. Evidence of Direction and Support from the USSR, China or Other Communist Country

There is some evidence that PCB members have received training in sabotage and other forms of violent action in Communist Bloc countries, as indicated above.

IX. Estimate of Threat from Local Communist Party Sabotage, Terrorism, etc.

In view of the PCB's need to win broader support, it is doubtful that the Party will engage in widespread disruptive action unless PCB elements can act within other (non-Communist) groups.

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